



December 4, 2013

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: **Ex parte filing** in WC Docket No. 10-90

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Steve Merriam and Jens Laipenieks from Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative, Inc. (ASTAC), Dave Dengel from Copper Valley Telephone (CVT) and the undersigned from GVNW Consulting, Inc. (GVNW) conducted an ex parte meeting with Amy Bender of Commissioner O’Rielly’s office on December 3. We also had separate ex parte meetings on December 4 with Matthew Berry, Chief of Staff from Commissioner Pai’s office and Christianna Barnhart from Commissioner Rosenworcel’s office.

These ex parte meetings consisted of a discussion of the public safety issues created by the upcoming changes to rural wireless support and the extreme construction and maintenance challenges in the harsh Arctic environment. We provided an update on ASTAC’s effort to realize the benefits of the Arctic Fiber Network (AFN) project. The discussion also touched on the potential impacts in 2015-2019 of the QRA for federal universal service support on ASTAC and CVT. The meetings concluded with a brief discussion of the definition of what is an unsubsidized carrier in the state of Alaska. We quoted from the recent November 19, 2013 letter from GCI Executive Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer Greg Chapados to eleven members of the Alaska state legislature. In footnote 2 of his letter, Mr. Chapados states in part:

For the record, the USF (Universal Service Fund) high cost funds received by GCI must be used, under federal law, to support essential rural local voice services. As you know, GCI has reinvested such funds to extend mobile wireless service throughout most of rural Alaska. Separate USF programs support the telecommunications needs of telemedicine and distance learning providers. These anchor tenants have enabled GCI to make substantial investments to extend terrestrial broadband service throughout much of rural Alaska.

As required by the Commission’s rules, this ex parte record is now filed in the above referenced docket. If there are any questions, please call me on 503.612.4409.

Respectfully submitted,

Via ECFS 12/4/13

Jeffry H. Smith
President and CEO

Copy to
Matthew Berry, FCC
Amy Bender, FCC
Christianna Barnhart, FCC